



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 502

January Session, 2013

House Bill No. 6305

House of Representatives, April 15, 2013

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GENTILE of the 104th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROHIBITING HUNTING IN PROXIMITY TO WILDLIFE PRESERVES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 26-67c of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
5 shall maintain a record of all written complaints received by the
6 department of violations of the regulations concerning hunting in
7 proximity to buildings occupied by persons or domestic animals or
8 used for storage of flammable or combustible materials or the
9 regulations regarding shooting towards persons, buildings or animals.
10 The commissioner shall hold a hearing at least once annually, in
11 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, at which changes in such
12 regulations for particular localities shall be considered. The
13 commissioner may amend such regulations for a particular locality
14 where he finds that: (1) The physical setting of a particular locality

15 presents an unreasonable risk that hunters may violate the regulations
16 regarding hunting in proximity to buildings occupied by persons or
17 domestic animals or used for storage of flammable or combustible
18 materials or the regulations regarding shooting towards persons,
19 buildings or animals; [or] (2) a record of documented complaints
20 reveals that violations of such regulations occur with significant
21 frequency; or (3) the physical setting of a particular locality presents an
22 unreasonable risk to animals located in a wildlife sanctuary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| | | |
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| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | 26-67c(a) |
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ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to amend portions of the state's hunting regulations under certain circumstances, does not result in a fiscal impact. Under current law, the Commissioner has the authority to amend certain regulations.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6305*****AN ACT PROHIBITING HUNTING IN PROXIMITY TO WILDLIFE PRESERVES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes the energy and environmental protection commissioner to amend certain portions of the state hunting regulations if he finds a particular location's physical setting presents an unreasonable risk to animals in a wildlife sanctuary. (The bill does not define "wildlife sanctuary.") By law, the commissioner can amend the regulations if he finds that (1) a particular location presents an unreasonable risk that hunters could violate the regulations or (2) documented complaints show violations occur frequently.

The regulations the commissioner may amend for a particular location prohibit discharging:

1. firearms within 500 feet of a building (a) occupied by people or domestic animals or (b) storing flammable or combustible material, unless the building owner's written permission is obtained and carried while hunting, in which case, the distance must be at least 250 feet and
2. any hunting weapon toward people, buildings, or domestic animals (Conn. Agency Regs. § 26-66-1(d) & (e)).

By law, the commissioner must hold at least one hearing annually to consider changing these hunting regulations for particular locations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 11 (03/25/2013)